

CASE: 1242

FEB 86 JCRC/VNOSMIA TECHNICAL MEETING IN HANOI.

4 December 1987

A CASE NARRATIVE PERTAINING TO EDWARD J. BRAMS, JR. WAS PASSED BY JCRC ON 4 AUG 87 TO THE SRV EMBASSY IN BANGKOK PURSUANT TO AGREEMENTS REACHED BETWEEN GENERAL VESSEY AND SRV FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN CO THACH.

12 August 1992

CASE NARRATIVE 1242 WAS PASSED TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING THE 30-31 JULY 1992 POW/MIA TECHNICAL MEETING.

=== MAJOR COORDINATE CHANGE ===

1 April 1975

COORDINATES CHANGED FROM WF 898 105 TO WF 908 109 BASED ON COORDS PROVIDED BY MSG, CTG 77.4 DTG 010920Z AUG 68. SUBJ: PERSONAL AUTHENTICATOR.

=== JOINT INVESTIGATION, SURVEY OR EXCAVATION ===

26 January 1993

ON 9 SEP 92, THE JOINT TEAM TRAVELLED TO HUONG KHE DISTRICT MILITARY HEADQUARTERS (WF740099), HA TINH PROVINCE TO INVESTIGATE CASE 1242. THE TEAM OBTAINED NO INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS CASE. A MEMBER OF THE VNOSMP TRAVELLED TO LOC YEN VILLAGE, HUONG SON DISTRICT, HA TINH PROVINCE ON 8 SEP TO PREPARE FOR THE JOINT TEAM'S VISIT. LOC YEN IS THE VILLAGE IN WHICH THE COORDINATES ASSOCIATED IN U.S. RECORDS WITH CASE 1242 ARE LOCATED. NO INFORMATION ON CASE 1242 WAS OBTAINED IN LOC YEN VILLAGE. (REF 8)

7 August 1993

ON 3 AND 6 JUL 93, IE2 INVESTIGATED THIS CASE IN THACH HUONG VILLAGE, THACH HA DISTRICT AND HA TINH TOWNSHIP, HA TINH PROVINCE. THE TEAM INTERVIEWED SIX WITNESSES WHO PROVIDED TESTIMONY ON A CRASH SITE POSSIBLY CORRELATING TO CASE 1242. THE TEAM SURVEYED THE WITNESS-REPORTED SITE (APPROXIMATELY SEVEN KILOMETERS NORTH OF THE LAST KNOWN POSITION FOR CASE 1242) AND RECOVERED SEVERAL ITEMS WHICH SUGGEST A PLANE CRASHED IN THE AREA. ADDITIONALLY, THE TEAM CONDUCTED AN AERIAL SURVEY OF THE LAST KNOWN LOCATION FOR CASE 1242 WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. ONE WITNESS TURNED IN A SMALL BONE FRAGMENT ALLEGEDLY TAKEN (MANY YEARS EARLIER) FROM THE WITNESS-REPORTED CRASH SITE. THE FRAGMENT WAS TOO SMALL FOR THE USCILHI ANTHROPOLOGIST TO DETERMINE WHETHER IT WAS ANIMAL OR HUMAN. (REF 9)

JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING  
BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 15 OCTOBER 1993

===== BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION =====

REFNO: 1243-0-01 (ACCNO 1069)  
Name: ROSS, JOSEPH SHAW

Status: (F) DEAD BODY NOT RECOVERED  
Date Status assigned: 12 Mar 1975

Nationality	AMERICAN	Race	CAUCASIAN	Blood Chit	DATA
Service	AIR FORCE	Sex	MALE	Blood type	A +
Grade	O2	Hair	BROWN	Complexion	FAIR
SSAN	DATA	Eyes	BLUE	Weapon	.38 CAL PISTOL
Serial No	DATA	Height	72 in / 1.83 mtrs	Weapon No	K654611
Birth date	26 Jan 1943	Weight	190 lb / 86.1 kg	Duty pos	PILOT
Home State	VIRGINIA	Religion	PROTESTANT	PW Camp	\$

===== SITE INFORMATION =====

INCIDENT LOCATION (0)

Site Type: CRASH SITE  
UTM: 48QXE274203  
Lat/Long: 172158N / 1061158E  
Country: NORTH VIETNAM  
Military Region: 4  
Mission Province: QUANG BINH  
(formerly):  
Mission District: BO TRACH  
Mission Date: 1 Aug 1968 0310L  
Mission Category: 3  
Local Analysis: Remote area.

===== JTF-FA ACTIVITY SUMMARY =====

Folders Passed: Jul 93, Mar 92, Jun 88, Aug 87  
Investigations: Aug 93  
Surveys: Aug 93  
Vessey Case: NO  
Case type: DISCREPANCY  
Survivability: (2) Probably out of the aircraft at the time of the crash

===== VEHICLE DATA =====

Vehicle Type: F4D	Serial: 8822
Crash Type: None	Engine Type: J7915
Call Sign: COACH 01	1 Serial: 440154
Year: 66	2 Serial: 440155

===== SPECIAL CHARACTER KEY =====

# = Item has been researched but data cannot be obtained.  
\$ = Item is not applicable to this case.  
@ or Blank = Data for item is unknown or not available.

JOINT TASK FORCE - FULL ACCOUNTING  
BIOGRAPHIC/SITE REPORT AS OF 15 OCTOBER 1993

===== BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION =====

REFNO: 1243-0-02 (ACCNO 1149) Status: (F) DEAD BODY NOT RECOVERED  
Name: THOMPSON, WILLIAM JAMES Date Status assigned: 6 Mar 1979

Nationality	AMERICAN	Race	CAUCASIAN	Blood Chit	DATA
Service	AIR FORCE	Sex	MALE	Blood type	O +
Grade	O4	Hair	BROWN	Complexion	FAIR
SSAN	DATA	Eyes	HAZEL	Weapon	.38 CAL PISTOL
Serial No		Height	70 in / 1.78 mtrs	Weapon No	K602322
Birth date	19 Feb 1933	Weight	190 lb / 86.1 kg	Duty pos	ACFT CMDR
Home State	KENTUCKY	Religion	PROTESTANT	PW Camp	\$

===== SITE INFORMATION =====

INCIDENT LOCATION (0)

Site Type: CRASH SITE  
UTM: 48QXE274203  
Lat/Long: 172158N / 1061158E  
Country: NORTH VIETNAM  
Military Region: 4  
Mission Province: QUANG BINH  
(formerly):  
Mission District: BO TRACH  
Mission Date: 1 Aug 1968 0310L  
Mission Category: 3  
Local Analysis: Remote area.

===== JTF-FA ACTIVITY SUMMARY =====

Folders Passed: Jul 93, Mar 92, Jun 88, Aug 87  
Investigations: Aug 93  
Surveys: Aug 93  
Vessey Case: NO  
Case type: DISCREPANCY  
Survivability: (2) Probably out of the aircraft at the time of the crash

===== VEHICLE DATA =====

Vehicle Type: F4D	Serial: 8822
Crash Type: None	Engine Type: J7915
Call Sign: COACH 01	1 Serial: 440154
Year: 66	2 Serial: 440155

===== SPECIAL CHARACTER KEY =====

# = Item has been researched but data cannot be obtained.  
\$ = Item is not applicable to this case.  
@ or Blank = Data for item is unknown or not available.

CASE: 1243

=== CIRCUMSTANCES OF LOSS ===

28 August 1975

ON 1 AUGUST 1968 MAJ WILLIAM J. THOMPSON, AIRCRAFT COMMANDER, AND 1LT JOSEPH S. ROSS, PILOT, WERE FLYING AN F4D, (#66-8822), AS THE LEAD IN A FLIGHT OF TWO AIRCRAFT ON A NIGHT ARMED RECONNAISSANCE MISSION NEAR BEN KATOI, NORTH VIETNAM. ONCE OVER THE TARGET AREA THE FLIGHT LEADER DROPPED SEVERAL FLARES AND ILLUMINATED A GROUP OF TRUCKS. THE WINGMAN ASKED FOR CLEARANCE, BUT THE FLIGHT LEADER TOLD HIM TO "HOLD HIGH" BECAUSE HE WAS "ROLLING IN". AS THE WINGMAN CIRCLED THE TARGET AREA A LARGE EXPLOSION WITHIN SEVERAL HUNDRED FEET OF THE TARGET (AT GRID COORDINATES XE 296 214), WAS SEEN.

THE WINGMAN IMMEDIATELY ATTEMPTED TO CONTACT THE FLIGHT LEADER WITHOUT SUCCESS. WHILE ORBITING THE AREA FOR ABOUT TEN MINUTES, NO PARACHUTES WERE SEEN AND NEITHER VOICE NOR BEEPER SIGNALS WERE HEARD. OTHER AIRCRAFT ARRIVED OVER THE AREA AND SEARCHED FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE MINUTES WITH NO SUCCESS. EXTENSIVE ELECTRONIC SEARCHES ALSO WERE CONDUCTED WITHOUT SUCCESS. ON 30 MARCH 1973 A RETURNEE REPORTED DURING HIS DEBRIEF THAT THE NAME "ROSS" WAS WRITTEN ON A WALL AT HEARTBREAK POW CAMP IN HANOI. (NFI) (REF 1, 2 & 3)

DURING THE EXISTENCE OF JCRC, THE HOSTILE THREAT IN THE AREA PRECLUDED ANY VISITS TO OR GROUND INSPECTIONS OF THE SITES INVOLVED IN THIS CASE. THIS INDIVIDUAL'S NAME AND IDENTIFYING DATA WERE TURNED OVER TO THE FOUR-PARTY JOINT MILITARY TEAM WITH A REQUEST FOR ANY INFORMATION AVAILABLE. NO RESPONSE WAS FORTHCOMING. MAJ THOMPSON AND 1LT ROSS ARE CARRIED IN THE PRESUMPTIVE STATUS OF DEAD, BODY NOT RECOVERED.

=== REFERENCES ===

28 August 1975

REFERENCES: <1> RPT CHIEF, WING INTEL, 366TH TFW, 4 AUG 68. <2> RPT 366TH CSG (CBPO-PA) AF FORM 484 W/STATEMENTS 6 AUG 68. <3> MSG 13TH AF CLARK, DEBRIEF OF CAPT C. H. BRUNSON, 301203Z MAR 73. <4> 240457Z SEP 93 CJTFFA DET ONE BANGKOK TH.

=== NEGOTIATION ACTIONS ===

28 February 1986

A NEGOTIATION FOLDER ON JOSEPH S. ROSS AND WILLIAM J. THOMPSON WAS PASSED DURING THE 27-28 FEB 86 JCRC/VNOSMIA TECHNICAL MEETING IN HANOI.

CASE: 1243

=== NEGOTIATION ACTIONS ===

4 December 1987

A CASE NARRATIVE PERTAINING TO BOTH PARTIES WAS PASSED BY JCRC ON 4 AUG 87 TO THE SRV EMBASSY IN BANGKOK PURSUANT TO AGREEMENTS REACHED BETWEEN GENERAL VESSEY AND SRV FOREIGN MINISTER NGUYEN CO THACH.

2 April 1992

CASE NARRATIVE PASSED TO THE VIETNAMESE DURING THE 30 MARCH 1992 TECHNICAL MEETING IN HANOI.

20 August 1993

CASE NARRATIVE WAS PASSED TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT DURING THE 28 JUL 1993 POW/MIA TECHNICAL MEETING IN HANOI.

=== ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUALS ===

28 August 1975

ASSOCIATED INDIVIDUALS: JOSEPH S. ROSS 1243-0-01, AND WILLIAM J. THOMPSON 1243-0-02.

=== MAJOR COORDINATE CHANGE ===

28 August 1975

INCIDENT/LAST KNOWN LOCATION CHANGED FROM XE 274 203 TO XE 296 214 BASED ON COORDINATES PROVIDED BY MSG, 366 TFW DNG AB RVN, DTG 010730Z AUG 68, SUBJ: INITIAL LOSREP REPORT.

16 March 1988

INCIDENT/LAST KNOWN LOCATION CHANGED FROM XE 296 214 TO XE 274 203 BASED ON AF FORM 484.

=== JOINT INVESTIGATION, SURVEY OR EXCAVATION ===

5 October 1993

ON 1 SEP 93, IE1 INVESTIGATED CASE 1243. AFTER HAVING CANVASSED VILLAGES IN THE SURROUNDING AREA OF THE REPORTED CRASH, THE VNOSMP AND PROVINCE TASK TEAM WERE UNABLE TO LOCATE WITNESSES FOR THIS CASE. TEAM SAFETY REQUIREMENTS CAUSED BY THE SEVERITY OF THE KARST TERRAIN PRECLUDED THE

CASE: 1243

TEAM FROM VISITING THE LAST KNOWN INCIDENT LOCATION HELD IN U.S. RECORDS. IE1 CONDUCTED AN AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE OF THE INCIDENT LOCATION ON 1 SEP 93. NO EVIDENCE OF REMAINS, PERSONAL EFFECTS, OR A POSSIBLE AIRCRAFT CRASH SITE WAS DISCOVERED. (REF 4)